

**THRICOLEPOIDES CLAVISETIS, A NEW GENUS
AND SPECIES OF PERITELINI FROM THE
MIDWESTERN U. S. (OTIORHYNCHINAE: COLEOPTERA)**¹

CHARLES W. O'BRIEN

Laboratory of Aquatic Entomology, Florida A and M University,
Tallahassee, FL 32307

ABSTRACT

This new species in a new monotypic genus is the second species of Peritelini known from east of the Rocky Mountains. An outline illustration of its habitus and of the rostrum and the spermatheca are included, along with diagnoses of related genera.

Recently I received a series of specimens for identification from Dr. Edward U. Balsbaugh, Jr. of North Dakota State University which proved to be representatives of an undescribed genus and species of Peritelini. Since this is the second species of this tribe known east of the Rocky Mountains, I felt it deserved prompt description. The only other Peritelini known from the Midwest is the strawberry pest *Nemocestes horni* Van Dyke, a widespread species known (though rare) from Michigan and Wisconsin and (extremely common) from British Columbia south to central California. No host information is available currently for this new genus.

Thricolepoides O'Brien, **new genus.**

Small, globose, convex, apterous.

Rostrum subquadrate, only very slightly wider near apical 1/3; pteridgia weakly developed; nasal plate triangular, clearly defined, margin carinate; head broadly transverse, slightly shorter than rostrum; articulating area glabrous, transversely striate; eyes latero-dorsal, elongate oval, moderately convex, near margin of prothorax (*ca.* 1/4 length of eye); scrobes lateral (though visible from above), not converging dorsally on rostrum, dorsal margin directed towards middle of eye, ending well in front of eye (*ca.* 1/2 length of eye); antenna inserted *ca.* one eye length in front of eye; scape and funicle subequal in length; scape with suberect and recumbent, elongate clavate scalelike setae; funicle with coarse acute setae only; scutellum not visible; elytra lacking humeri; metepisternal suture incomplete, evident for slightly more than 1/2 length of metepisternum; abdominal sterna 1 and 2 separated by broadly, strongly arcuate suture; tibia 3 of female not mucronate at apex (male unknown); tarsal claws small, fine and connate.

Etymological note. This masculine generic name is the result of combining the stem of the generic name *Thricolepis* and *-oides* = resembling, having the form of.

The type species of this genus is *T. clavisetis* O'Brien, new species.

Taxonomic notes. This monotypic genus keys to couplet 36 in Kisinger's (1964) key to genera of Brachyrhinae (now Otiorhynchinae). However, both *Thricolepis* and *Peritelinus* have dorsal scrobes and strongly

This study was supported in part by the following grants in aid to Florida A and M University, U.S.D.A. Cooperative State Research Service Grant Nos. 716-15-22 and 416-15-16.

convex, round, or nearly round eyes. In addition *Thricolepis* has the antenna inserted at a distance anterior to the eye of about twice the diameter of an eye. The nasal plate of *Peritelinus* is not triangular but broadly horseshoe-shaped. The latter genus also tends to be elongate oval, not globose. The globose genus *Omius* also has small, round, convex eyes, and dorsal scrobes and lacks a visible metepisternal suture. In addition it is setose only and has 5 large mandibular setae. The dense imbricate scale covering and the 2 well developed mucrones of the female hind tibia will readily distinguish *Nemocestes*, the only other midwestern Peritelini.

Among the genera of Peritelini with 3 large mandibular setae are 3 (*Anchitelus*, *Geodercodes* and *Stenoptochus*) with a complete metepisternal suture, which contradicts couplet 26 of Kissinger's (1964) key. Nevertheless, they and *Thricolepoides* fit well within the bounds of the normal concept of the tribe as they all possess connate tarsal claws; hind coxae broadly separated, their outer lateral margin contiguous with the elytra; and the femora clavate and unarmed.

Thricolepoides clavisetis O'Brien, **new species.**

Black to piceous, clothed with short, recumbent, golden to pearlescent white scales and long, erect, brownish white to dark brownish black, clavate, scalelike setae.

Holotype female. Length, pronotum and elytron, 2.6 mm. Rostrum very slightly narrowed at base, very slightly wider at apex, due to pteridgia; dorsally moderately densely clothed with elongate, recumbent white scales and erect, anteriorly directed, scalelike, clavate setae; only nasal plate and narrow area immediately behind it glabrous; broadly, weakly depressed medially, dorsal scrobal margin narrowly raised; entire dorsal area coarsely, deeply, rugosely punctate; laterally and ventro-laterally with similar sparser, often suberect scales and similar clavate scalelike setae, and longitudinally rugosely striate, with smaller coarse punctures in striae; lateral scrobes narrow anteriorly, very broad and open behind and ventrally, not reaching eye, dorsal margin ending in front of eye at distance $1/4$ length of eye and ventral margin ending at distance in front of eye $2/3$ length of eye.

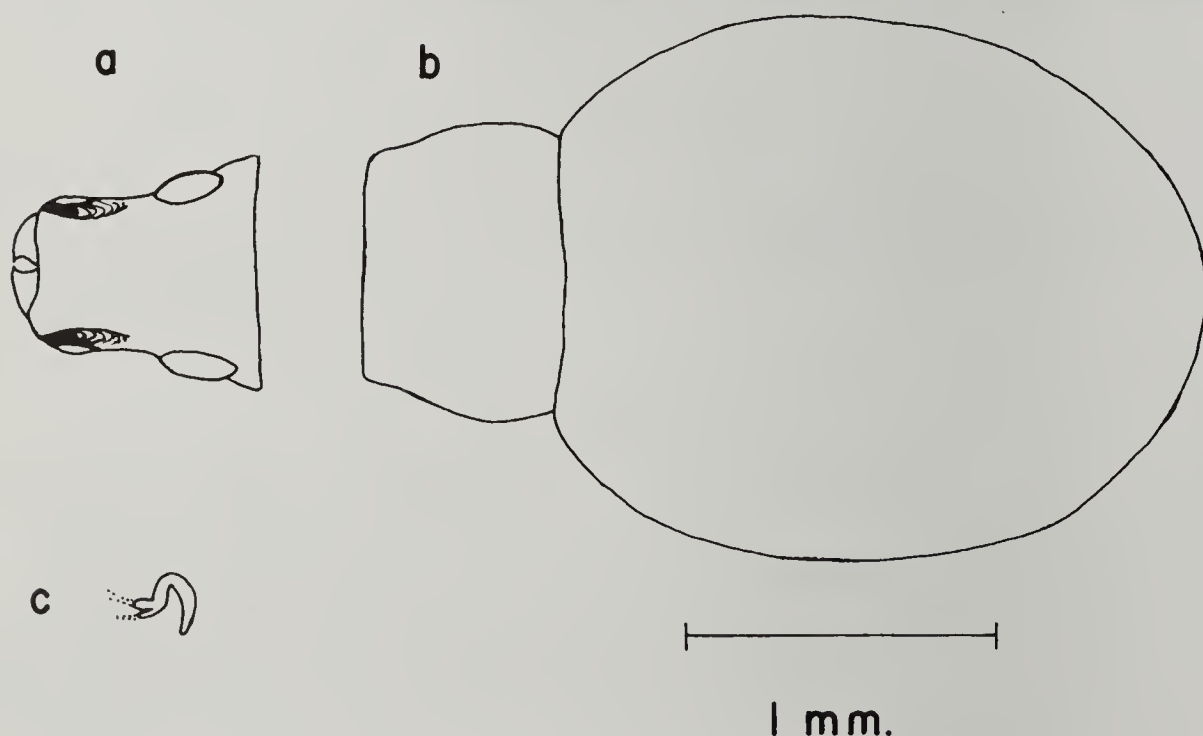


Fig. 1. *Thricolepoides clavisetis* O'Brien, n. sp.: a, head dorsal view, horizontal plane; b, pronotum and elytra, dorsal view; c, spermatheca, lateral view.

Antennae with strongly arcuate, clavate scape; funicular segment 1 *ca.* 1/3 wider and longer than 2, 2 *ca.* twice as long as 3, 4 through 7 slightly shorter than 3, 6 and 7 strongly transverse; club as long as funicular segments 1 and 2 together, broadly oval, acuminate. Head not strongly separated from rostrum, and with punctures and scales similar to dorsal area of rostrum, and with similar erect clavate setae though these directed posteriorly and slightly longer.

Prothorax strongly transverse (.55 × .90 mm), apex and base truncate, both very weakly constricted, sides evenly, moderately weakly arched; in lateral view disc with anterior 1/2 broadly evenly constricted, posterior 1/2 evenly convex; median 3/4 of disc sparsely clothed with elongate recumbent white and brown scales and setae, with contiguous, large, deep, clearly visible punctures, margins densely clothed with contiguous, oval, recumbent, golden and pearlescent scales, extending to the pleuron; ventral 2/3 of pleuron with moderately dense, elongate, recumbent, similarly colored scales; disc and lateral margins with erect clavate scale-like setae.

Elytra strongly inflated; humeral area strongly rounded, middle area weakly rounded, apical area strongly rounded; suture fused (often not visible), intervals wide, more than twice diameter of stria punctures, weakly convex to flat, clothed with moderately sparse, recumbent, elongate, subacute golden to pearlescent scales, and on intervals 1 through 7 with very long, erect, brownish to white, clavate setae in single median row, becoming shorter near apex, and with few shorter on base of 8 and very short on apical portions of 8, 9, and 10 (beyond reach of hind femora); stria punctures large, deep; striae weakly impressed dorsally between punctures in anterior 1/3; posteriorly and laterally more strongly striate.

Anterior coxae contiguous, middle coxae narrowly separated by *ca.* 1/4 diameter of coxa, hind coxae widely separated by width of hind coxa; prosternum clothed with moderately sparse, small, elongate, recumbent, golden to pearlescent scales; lateral margins of meso- and metasternum with dense, oval similar scales, becoming sparser, narrower and elongate medially. Abdominal sterna with at most rather sparse, small, elongate whitish scales on margins of sterna 1 and 2, remaining area of 1 and 2 and all of 3 through 5 with rather sparse recumbent and subrecumbent, white and brownish, scalelike setae; sternum 1 slightly longer than 2 (measured along midline), sterna 2 and 5 subequal, 3 and 4 equal, together much shorter than any alone.

Femora clavate, moderately densely clothed with whitish recumbent and brownish suberect elongate scales; tibiae nearly straight, inner margin weakly sinuate, apical area only curved, outer surface clothed with whitish recumbent and brownish suberect scales, inner surface with fine golden setae; front and middle tibiae with minute mucrone, nearly concealed by discal comb of setae, hind tibiae not mucronate; tarsal segments 1-3 short and broad, dorsally clothed with dense elongate scales and fine setae, lacking round recumbent scales.

Notes on variation. The 9 specimens on hand are fairly uniform. Most of the specimens have a more or less distinct median whitish line on the prothorax formed by a concentration of slightly broader, elongate recumbent scales. No other significant differences have been observed in the type series.

Material examined. Holotype and 8 paratypes. MINNESOTA, Becker Co., Cormorant L.[ake], 12 June 1978, L. A. Statler [in bathtub in cabin (pers. comm.)]. Holotype and paratypes deposited in author's collection. Paratypes also in the following collections: North Dakota State University, Fargo, N. D.; E. L. Sleeper, Long Beach, CA; National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D. C.

LITERATURE CITED

- KISSINGER, D. G. 1964. Curculionidae of America North of Mexico, a key to the genera. Taxon. Publ., South Lancaster, MA, pp. iii-v, 1-143, illus.